

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PANAMA 06073 241822Z
ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6073

STADIS//////////

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PN, PQ, US
SUBJECT: PRC MEETING: HIGHLIGHTS OF 442D PRC MEETING, AUGUST 17

1. TREATY AFFAIRS: A GENERAL DISCUSSION WAS HELD REGARDING
TREATY DEVELOPMENTS SINCE AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WAS
REACHED ON AUGUST 10 AND THE U.S. NEGOTIATORS DEPARTED.
THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED ON THE PROGRESS OF DRAFTING THE
DEFINITIVE TEXTS, THE PLANS AND TIMING FOR THE SIGNATURE,
AND THE MEANS BY WHICH AUTHORIZED INFORMATION REGARDING
THE TREATY WAS BEING RELEASED (FACT SHEETS, ETC.).
THE GOVERNOR REPORTED THAT INITIAL EMPLOYEE REACTION
TO THE TREATY HAD BEEN UNFAVORABLE. HE INDICATED HE HAD
RECEIVED A LIST OF THE EMPLOYEE ASSURANCES WITH AUTHORIZA-
TION FROM SEC/ARMY TO RELEASE THESE PROMPTLY. THE
GOVERNOR STATED THAT THE ASSURANCES INCLUDED MANY OF THE
SUGGESTIONS HE HAD MADE EARLIER BUT FELL SHORT IN TWO
IMPORTANT ASPECTS (EARLY OPTIONAL RETIREMENT AND
GUARANTEED JOBS IN U.S.) OF HIS EXPECTATIONS. THE CINC
REPORTED HE HAD RECEIVED GUIDANCE FROM THE JCS
REGARDING TREATY IMPLEMENTATION. IN GENERAL, AND
UNTIL TREATY ENTERS INTO FORCE
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CINC IS TO AVOID TAKING VISIBLE ACTIONS TO
RELOCATE TROOPS IN HIS COMMAND PURSUANT TO LANDS
AND WATERS ARRANGEMENTS. WHILE SOUTHCOM CAN
UNDERTAKE PLANNING ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO
NATIONAL GUARD FORCE DEVELOPMENT, COMBINED
EXERCISES AND EVENTUAL TROOP RELOCATIONS, HE
CANNOT UNDERTAKE CONSTRUCTION OF FACILITIES

AND OTHER VISIBLE INDICATIONS OF UNIT RELOCATIONS.

2. CODELS: THE PRC DISCUSSED SCHEDULES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE THREE SENATORIAL VISITS TO THE ISTHMUS. GENERAL AGREEMENT WAS REACHED ON THE INFORMATION THAT COULD BE RELEASED TO THE SENATORS AND THEIR OFFICIAL ACCOMPANYING STAFF. THE AMBASSADOR REPORTED HIS TALK WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER WHO INDICATED THAT GOP REPRESENTATIVES WOULD MEET WITH THE SENATORS TO HELP BRIEF THEM ON THE PANAMANIAN POSITION. THE AMBASSADOR INDICATED THAT HE MIGHT ALSO TAKE SOME OF THE SENATORS TO CALL ON THE PRESIDENT.

3. CUEVAS CASE: THE CINC REPORTED THAT THE CUEVAS COURT-MARTIAL HAD BEEN CONVENED ON AUGUST 8 AND THAT A NUMBER OF PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS WERE INTRODUCED. THE MILITARY JUDGE GRANTED A CONTINUANCE OF THE CASE PENDING THE RESULTS OF A SANITY BOARD HEARING REGARDING THE DEFENDANT'S COMPETENCE TO STAND TRIAL AS WELL AS A CHANGE OF VENUE MOTION. THE CINC SAID THAT THE PRELIMINARY ACTIONS IN THE CASE HAD NOT BEEN ANNOUNCED BUT THAT WHEN THE MAIN TRIAL BEGINS (PROBABLY IN ONE WEEK), THE ARMY WILL ADVISE ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE NATIONAL GUARD, AND THE CONFIDENTIAL

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